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EXAMINER
CHANKONG, DOHM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	**Application No.**	**Applicant(s)**
	09/843,760	BESAW, LAWRENCE M.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Dohm Chankong	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 October 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *21-53* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *21-53* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1>   This action is in response to Applicant's amendments and arguments, filed on

10.31.2007. Claims 21, 26, 41 are amended. Claims 21-53 are presented for further examination.

2>   This is a final rejection.

Response to Arguments

3>   As to the §112 rejections, Applicant has amended the independent claims to now recite

in part that the display filter is "not subject to editing by the service provider." Applicant

points to Figure 2, asserting that there is no connection between the edit manager and the

Filter Library that contains the display filter. Applicant also asserts the specification supports

the limitation because there is no explicit disclosure that the edit manager edits the "display

filter."

     Any negative limitation or exclusionary proviso must have basis in the original

disclosure. MPEP §2173.05(i). The mere absence of a positive recitation is not basis for an

exclusion. Id.

     The mere absence of a recitation that the edit manager does not edit the display filter

is not basis for excluding the feature from the claim. Applicant's reliance on Figure 2 is also

unpersuasive for several reasons. First, there is nothing in Applicant's specification that

states that the edit manager must be connected to the filter library in order to be able edit the

filter. Second, the edit manager is connected to the filter library through the module library.

Third, following Applicant's logic, it is unclear how a customer would be able to access the

filter library and edit any of the filters stored therein. That is, if some component must be

"connected" to the filter library in order to edit the filters, the figure and Applicant's

specification fail to describe the needed component that would enable the customer to edit

the filters.

Based on the foregoing remarks, the claims remain rejected under §112, first paragraph

for lacking proper written description. There is no support in Applicant's specification that

discloses that the service provider cannot edit the customer's display filter.

4>   Applicant's other amendments to the independent claims do not overcome the cited

prior art references. The amendments recite (1) parsing a user configuration database for a

security filter stored in a customer configuration record; (2) said security filter definable by

the service provider in accordance with what the customer is allowed to view; (3) parsing the

customer configuration record for at least one management information module from a

module library; and (4) a display filter definable by the customer in accordance with what

the customer desires to view and not subject to editing by the service provider. The cited

prior art references, Dobbins, Lim, and Szabo, disclose the new limitations.

As to (1), Dobbins discloses storing customer data in a database as a configuration

record within a table structure [Figure 12 : "People" directory name which refers to

"information about subscribers" | 0007 : database directory data model | 0087]. Dobbins

further discloses applying a security filter in the form of determining whether the subscriber

is authorized to access the network [0022]. Once the subscriber is authenticated, subscriber-

specific policies, definable by the service provider and in accordance with what the subscriber

is allowed to view, are applied [0023 | 0024 : policies control subscriber's ability to "gain

access to specific content and network resources"]. Thus, Dobbins discloses parsing a user

configuration database (Dobbin's database), for a security filter (authenticating the user and

applying appropriate policies) stored in a configuration record of the customer (Figure 12).

As to (2), the security filter was discussed above. To reiterate, Dobbins discloses

authenticating the user (filtering unauthorized users) and retrieving subscriber-specific

policies that control the subscriber's ability to access specific content and resources [0024].

These policies correspond to Applicant's security filter.

As to (3), Dobbins discloses parsing the customer's configuration record as discussed

above. Additionally, Dobbins discloses parsing the record for a management information

module [Figure 12 : disclosing network management information are stored in the

configuration record]. Dobbins does not expressly disclose a module library. However,

Dobbins does disclose that a user can select from a variety of available services [0024], some

of these services including logging, billing and monitoring services [0028]. These services

correspond to Applicant's modules. Additionally, a new ground of rejection is set forth for

the claims to address this newly added limitation.

As to (4), Dobbins discloses that a customer defines a display filter in accordance with

what the customer desires to view [0010 : subscriber can select premium content to view or

receive specific content based on interests or relevance]. These preferences are stored as

policies within the customer record. Dobbins does not expressly disclose whether the display

filter is subject to editing by the service provider. Dobbins does teach that the personalization

of the portal is controlled by the subscriber and that at the network provider's discretion,

some personalization controls can be administered. However, the network provider is not the same as a service provider. Szabo explicitly teaches that a subscriber's profile is private, accessible only to the subscriber [abstract : "physical and algorithmic controls over access to the personal profiles | column 41 «lines 1-9» where : the user controls who has access to his user profile]. Thus, Szabo expressly discloses that the profile is not subject to editing by any other entity.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5> Claims 21, 22, 26-28, 30, 32, 37-39, 40-43, 45, 47, 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbins et al, U.S Patent Publication No. 2002|0066033 ["Dobbins"], in view of Lim, in further view of Szabo, U.S Patent No. 7.181.438, in further view of Rangarajan et al, U.S Patent No. 6.275.225, ["Rangarajan"].

6> As to claim 21, Dobbins discloses a method for filtering on-line service information provided through a management portal to a customer of customized network services provided by network resources of a service provider via a service provider network, comprising:

parsing a user configuration database for a security filter stored in a configuration

record of the customer [Figure 12 | 0022-0024];

applying to said service provider network said security filter definable by the service

provider in accordance with what the customer is allowed to view [0024] and said security

filter specifying network resources allocated to that customer [0009, 0024, 0043 where :

Dobbins discloses policies controllable by the administrator that determine which content

and network resources a particular subscriber has access];

applying to said network resources a display filter definable by the customer, said

display filter specifying network resources for which said on-line service information is

desired by the customer [0023-0026, 0039-0043 : after applying the authentication policy,

Dobbins' system applies the subscriber's profile to further refine which content and services

that the user desires]; and

executing at least one management information module to generate a portal display of

on-line service information, wherein said at least one management information module

operates only on those network resources of said service provider network which have not

been excluded by said security filter and said display filter [0025, 0036, 0037 where : Dobbins'

renderer delivers a portal containing the data and content refined by the user policies], and

wherein the displayed on-line service information comprises network management

information regarding the network resources not excluded by said security filter and display

filter [0028].

Dobbins does disclose a service provider network, but does not to expressly disclose

the service network or the resources are included in a partitioned network. Dobbins does not

expressly disclose that the display filter is not subject to editing by the service provider.

Finally, Dobbins also does not disclose a module library.

7>   As to the partitioned network feature, Lim is directed towards a system enabling a

service provider to manage its services partition its network resources into different

networks associated with different customers [column 1 «lines 37-62» | column 20 «lines 61-

62»]. Lim discloses network resources of a partitioned network allocated to a customer with

the partitioned network including at least a portion of said service provider network [column

25-29» | column 21 «lines 28 and 46-64» | column 22 «lines 24-40»]. In other words Dobbins

discloses an invention that enables management and monitoring of network resources. Lim

discloses an invention that enables management and monitoring of network resources

utilizing a partitioned network for each customer. Lim discloses that benefits of partitioning

networks includes providing a more service-oriented view and enabling more efficient

management of resources.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify

Dobbins' management system to include the partitioned networks taught by Lim. As

discussed, incorporating partitioned networks would provide an expected benefit to Dobbins

by providing a service provider the ability to divide network resources and allocate them to

customers. The combination of Dobbins and Lim discloses Applicant's invention in the

manner claimed.

8>   As to the display filter feature, Szabo is directed to a system providing personalized

data access to users, through for example, portals [column 86 «lines 13-34» | column 90 «lines

12-23»]. Szabo discloses a display filter (analogous to a user's profile) is not subject to the

control of the service provider [abstract : "physical and algorithmic controls over access to

the personal profiles | column 41 «lines 1-9» where : the user controls who has access to his

user profile. This user profile is analogous to Applicant's display filter and Dobbins'

subscriber profile]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

incorporate Szabo's teachings into Dobbins. One would have been motivated to modify

Dobbins' profile to be more secure as taught by Szabo to enhance the security over who has

access to the profile's information.

9>   As to the module library feature, Rangarajan is directed to providing a customizable

GUI to a user [abstract]. Further, Rangarajan discloses that a user can select from a set of

features to configure the GUI, where such features are represented as modules on the GUI

[Figure 5 «items 505, 509, 511» | Figure 9 «items 905, 907»]. The features are selected from a

"library" or a set of features [column 2 «lines 1-13»]. Once a user has selected the features (or

modules), the configuration is stored in the user's profile [column 8 «lines 12-33»]. Thus,

Rangarajan discloses a module library as claimed by Applicant.

Rangarajan's feature set library would improve Dobbins by placing all of Dobbins'

services within a feature library to allow easier selection by the subscriber. Dobbins discloses

parsing the customer's configuration record and parsing the record for a management

information module [Figure 12 : disclosing network management information are stored in

the configuration record]. Dobbins does disclose that a user can select from a variety of available services [0024], some of these services including logging, billing and monitoring services [0028]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Dobbins to include Rangarajan's feature set into Dobbins' portal. Rangarajan enables a user to customize the functionality of the GUI to meet the user's needs [column 1 «lines 65-67»].

10>   As to claim 22, Dobbins as modified by Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan discloses a method wherein applying said security filter comprises applying:

applying a customer sub-filter to provide an association of said corresponding customer and said network resources contained in said partitioned network allocated to the customer [Dobbins, 0009 : content access rule | see also Lim, column 9 «lines 18-27» | column 10 «lines 24-42» : "...data associated with the customer are polled by the system..."].

11>   As to claim 23, Dobbins as modified by Lim and Szabo does not explicitly disclose an alarm module. Dobbins does disclose logging services that enable notifying administrators of a critical log message [0028]. Additionally, Rangarajan discloses an alarm module configured to display information regarding alarm conditions occurring in said non-excluded resources [Figure 5 «item 509» | column 5 «lines 50-53» | column 10 «lines 6-10» : wherein the devices correspond to network resources and clients are only able to work with resources that have been assigned to them (excluded resources)]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's alarm module into Dobbins' management system

to allow users to select nodes that would enable monitoring of alarm conditions in the

network resources to which they only have access. One would have motivated to perform

such an implementation enable users to more efficiently manage resources.

12>   As to claim 24, Dobbins as modified by Lim and Szabo does not explicitly disclose a

topology module configured to display at least a graphical representation of network

elements and connections between said network elements included in said non-excluded

network resources. However, such a feature was well known in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention.

Rangarajan discloses providing a topology module configured to display at least a

graphical representation of network elements and connections between said network

elements [Figure 9 «item 905» | column 6 «lines 27-36» | column 7 «lines 21-24»].

Furthermore, Lim discloses resources that can only be utilized by customers with the

property authority. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

incorporate Rangarajan's topology module into Dobbins' management system to allow users

to more clearly see a map of the configuration of network resources to which they only have

access in the network. One would have been motivated to perform such an implementation

as such a map would allow users to more effectively manage the network resources.

13>   As to claim 25, Dobbins as modified by Lim and Szabo does not explicitly disclose a

network health module configured to display a status or health report of said non-excluded

network resources. Dobbins does disclose monitoring services that enable an administrator to

"observe operating performance" [0028]. Additionally, Rangarajan discloses a network health

module configured to display a status or health report of said non-excluded network

resources [Figure 9 «item 907» : "critical, major, minor.."]. It would have been obvious to one

of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's health module into Lim's data access

system to allow users to keep track and remotely monitor network resources as needed.

14>   As to claim 26, Dobbins discloses a method for filtering on-line service information

presented through a management portal to a customer of customized network services

provided by resources of a service provider network, comprising:

    storing, in a configuration database accessible by a service provider and not the

customer, security filters each specifying network resources of a partitioned network

allocated to a corresponding customer [0010, 0017, 0023];

    providing a plurality of modules each configured to provide a respective portal display

of on-line service information [0021, 0024, 0027];

    storing, in a filter library accessible to the customer, display filters each configured by

the customer [0039-0043] to specify customer-selected network resources to which selected

ones of said plurality of modules it to be applied [0010, 0017, 0023, 0036];

    displaying a portal display of on-line service information generated from application

of one of said plurality of modules to network resources resulting from application to the

service provider network of a security filter corresponding to the customer and at least one

said display filters [0009, 0010, 0017, 0023, 0036, 0037], and wherein the displayed on-line

service information comprises network management information regarding the network

resources not excluded by said security filter and display filter [0028 : see response above for

discussion].

Dobbins does not expressly disclose partitioning the service provider network into a

plurality of partitioned networks nor does he disclose allocating one of said partitioned

networks to the customer. Dobbins does not expressly disclose that the display filter is not

subject to editing by the service provider. Finally, Dobbins also does not disclose a module

library.

As to the partitioned network feature, see the rejection of claim 21 and the

combination of Dobbins and Lim, above. As to the display filter feature, see the rejection of

claim 21 and the combination of Dobbins and Szabo, above. As to the module library feature,

see the rejection of claim 21 and the combination of Dobbins and Rangarajan, above.

15>   As to claim 27, Dobbins as modified by Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan discloses a

method wherein applying said security filter comprises applying:

applying a customer sub-filter to provide an association of said corresponding

customer and said network resources contained in said partitioned network allocated to the

customer [Dobbins, 0009 : content access rule | see also Lim, column 9 «lines 18-27» | column

10 «lines 24-42» : "...data associated with the customer are polled by the system..."].

16>   As to claim 28, Dobbins, as modified by Lim, Szabo and Rangarajan discloses a

customer sub-filter that is configured to filter on at least one of a node level and interface

level of said service provider network [Dobbins, 0052, 0110 : "subscriber's interface" | also see

Lim, column 4 «lines 52-62» | column 5 «lines 1-24» : see Lim's interfaces].

17>   As to claim 30, Dobbins discloses specifying an internet protocol interface sub-filter of

said security filter, said IP interface sub-filter configured to filter on an IP address of a

network device [0022].

18>   As to claim 31, Dobbins and Lim do disclose utilizing sub-filters [see Dobbins,

applying the security filter to the user, the applying a profile filter based on user preferences],

but do not explicitly disclose a node selection sub-filter. Rangarajan discloses a node selection

sub-filter of said display filter, said node selection sub-filter configured to filter on network

nodes of the service provider network [column 6 «lines 27-33» | column 7 «lines 10-14»]. It

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's node

filtering functionality into Dobbins' management system to enable users to manage network

devices through a user selected view of the nodes in the network.

19>   As to claim 32, Dobbins discloses the method of claim 26 further comprising

specifying an interface selection sub-filter of said display filter, said interface selection sub-

filter configured to filter one of a set of at least one network interfaces [0052].

20>   As to claim 33, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose an alarm module.

Rangarajan discloses an alarm module configured to display alarm conditions in network

resources to which said alarm module is applied [Figure 5 «item 509» | column 10 «lines 6-10»

: wherein the devices correspond to network resources]. It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's alarm module into Dobbins'

management system to allow users to select nodes that would enable monitoring of alarm

conditions in the network resources. One would have motivated to perform such an

implementation enable users to more efficiently manage resources.

21>   As to claim 34, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose an alarm sub-filter.

Rangarajan discloses storing an alarm sub-filter of the display filter, said alarm sub-filter

providing filtering capability of a display of alarm categories [column 6 «lines 27-36» |

column 7 «lines 37-61»: "selected fault list"]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's alarm sub-filter into Dobbins' management

system to enable users to select specific faults that they wish to keep track of in their

management system.

22>   As to claim 35, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose providing a topology

module. Rangarajan discloses providing a topology module configured to display at least a

graphical representation of network elements and connections between said network

elements [Figure 9 «item 905» | column 6 «lines 27-36» | column 7 «lines 21-24»]. It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's topology

module into Dobbins' management system to allow users to more clearly see a map of the

configuration of network resources in the network. One would have been motivated to

perform such an implementation as such a map would allow users to more effectively

manage the network resources.

23>   As to claim 36, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose storing a topology map

sub-filter. Rangarajan discloses storing a topology map sub-filter of the display filter, said

topology map sub-filter configured to identify which of said network elements and network

element connections to include in said topology map [Figure 9 «item 905» | column 6 «lines

27-36» | column 7 «lines 21-24 and 37-61»]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill

in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's topology sub-filter into Dobbins' management system

to allow users to control over what network devices are seen on a map of the network. One

would have been motivated to perform such an implementation as such a map would allow

users to more effectively manage the network resources.

24>   As to claim 37, Dobbins discloses providing a network health module configured to

display a status or health report network resources to which said network health module is

applied [0028].

25>   As to claim 38, Dobbins discloses storing a network health sub-filter of the display

filter, said network health sub-filter configured to identify which of said network elements to

monitor for said status and health report [0028, 0133].

26>   As to claim 39, Dobbins discloses invoking said security filter by parsing a customer

record in said user configuration database [0027, 0028].

27>   As to claim 40, Dobbins discloses invoking said display filter by invoking said

selected module [0053].

28>   As to claims 41-43, 45, 47, 52 and 53, as they are merely systems that implement the

steps of the method of claims 26-28, 30, 32, 37 and 38, they do not teach or further define over

the claimed limitations. Therefore, claims 41-43, 45, 47, 52 and 53 are rejected for the same

reasons as set forth for claims 26-28, 30, 32, 37 and 38, supra.

29>   As to claims 46 and 48-51, as they are merely systems that implement the steps of the

method of claims 31 and 33-36, they do not teach or further define over the claimed

limitations. Therefore, claims 46 and 48-51 are rejected for the same reasons as set forth for

claims 31 and 33-36, supra.

30>   Claims 29 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Dobbins, Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan, in further view of Teijido et al, U.S Patent No.

2002|0053020 ["Teijido"].

31>   As to claim 29, Dobbins as modified by Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan does not

explicitly disclose specifying an internet protocol host sub-filter of said security filter, said IP

host sub-filter configured to filter on a network name of a network device. Teijido discloses

an internet protocol host sub-filter of said security filter, said IP host sub-filter configured to

filter on a network name of a network device [0049, 0070 : "...limit access to only a

predefined specific set of client machines."; "...host id"]. It would have been obvious to one

of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Teijido's host sub-filter into Dobbins' management

system to provide a level of security in accessing and viewing network resources. Such an

implementation would ensure that the data can be tailored to a specific set of client

machines.

32>   As to claim 44, as it does not teach or further define over the previously claimed

limitations, it is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 29, supra.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

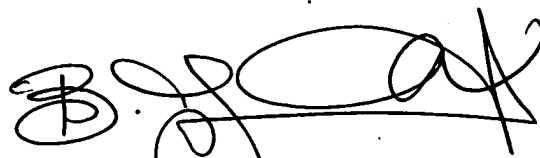extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than

SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Dohm Chankong whose telephone number is 571.272.3942.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday [8:30 AM to 4:30 PM].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571.272.3913. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information

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9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service

Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA

OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DC
1/11/08